

Appendix 4

Questions & Comments Summary

DRAFT

**SUMMARY OF COMMENTS & QUESTIONS
Supplemental Water Supply Project Scoping Meetings
April 28 - May 1, 1997**

SACRAMENTO 4/28/97

Attendance: 23

- There needs to be more outreach directly to the affected communities, particularly Rosemont.
- Is water from Fairbairn clean enough for drinking? And if so, couldn't there be a tie in to the pipeline by Citizens Utilities to supplement their supplies? Such an arrangement would be helpful to offset problems caused by contaminated groundwater in the Rosemont area.
- The Rosemont community will be actively involved in this process, and will be looking to its elected representatives for information.
- The integrity of Discovery Park, a prime recreational area is of great concern. Particularly, how will recreation along Discovery Park be impacted, and how will the visual aesthetics of the park be affected? There is opposition to adding non-park, non-recreation structures to the parkway.
- Will the flow of both the American and Sacramento rivers be protected?
- What protections are there regarding the amount of water diverted by EBMUD? Are there legal guarantees? What is there to keep EBMUD from drawing its full contract amount, especially in dry years?
- Is Mokelumne River water drinking-water quality? And if not, what is the point of mixing newly treated water from the American River with the untreated water of the Mokelumne?
- Why can't EBMUD take water from the Sacramento River? Would it cost more to treat the Sacramento River water than it would to build the proposed Joint Project facilities?
- How will the Delta be protected? And are impacts to the Delta being included in the EIR/EIS?
- What assurances are there that Sacramento will have an adequate amount of water, especially in dry years, if EBMUD will be taking the water too?
- In the proposed Joint Project, would any water get to be used by the City or County of Sacramento? Would they have increased treatment abilities?
- Many Sacramento area residents are under water rationing. Does EBMUD impose conservation measures on its customers as well? Sacramento residents won't want to conserve water so that EBMUD customers can waste it.
- There is a concern about the level of Folsom Lake, and that the Joint Project may further affect that level.

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- There is a concern that there isn't enough water for all parties involved right now, and that taking more water out of the river can't be better.
- Will detailed maps of Wilton area be available?
- There should be more discussion regarding right-of-way requirements along the Central California Traction Railroad.
- There should be more information that addresses the concerns of property owners along the Folsom South Canal Connection alignments.
- There should be a meeting specifically for Wilton residents.
- It seems as though the Joint Project is already a done deal, and that the public's input isn't going to be used. It should be explained how the public's comments and questions are going to be addressed. What changes could be made based on public comment? How will feedback get to public? How will the public know when/what/how to give input?
- The technical details should be made very clear to the public.
- What is the benefit to EBMUD's customers?
- What legal right does EBMUD have to American River water?
- Seems as though the Sacramento City and County water representatives are doing damage control at this point rather than pursuing solutions that are good for Sacramento.
- Seems as though having the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation doing the EIS is like the fox guarding the chicken coop.
- How will the Joint Project affect San Juan Water District rates?
- Will the Joint Project create an artificial drought for Sacramento?
- How will the Joint Project affect Sacramento rates? Facts on costs to residents should be clear and readily available.
- What is the proportion of the cost share?
- (Referring the Water Forum) What happens after 2030? Why can't we plan farther out to 2050?
- Are Sacramento & EBMUD going to conserve more in the future?
- Will the Bureau mandate conservation?
- Why aren't meters required on new construction in Sacramento?
- What are the treatment costs borne by EBMUD?

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- Would EBMUD pay the Bureau in the future for flood protection as the City of Sacramento is doing in 1997?
- Who are the decision-makers regarding alignment selection?
- Because the Water Forum doesn't have a legal standing, residents will be looking to elected officials regarding the value of the Joint Project.
- Because of the heavy impacts to the local community, it seems that the City and County of Sacramento should be taking the lead on the EIR/EIS process. The objective of the Joint Project seems good, but an outside agency (EBMUD) shouldn't be lead.
- Elected officials should say why they support the Joint Project.
- Future road maintenances should be included in the Joint Project.
- Fact sheets and updates should be mailed to all interested parties.
- If there is metering and rate increases in the future, they should be fair.
- There should be more background information available regarding EBMUD's water rights, because most Sacramento residents don't know about it.
- If EBMUD's contract has been blocked for 25 years, what's to say it hasn't been for good reason? Is the Joint Project really the best option? There should be published answers regarding why it's the best option.

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OAKLAND 4/29/97

Attendance: 8

- How will the impacts to the Delta be considered?
- Geographic scope should include Delta and downstream of the American River.
- Any water transfers should fall under CVPIA guidelines and give existing contracts the right of first refusal.
- How will other CVP contractors be affected when this project comes on line—in particular, the south Delta ag contractors?
- American River Utilization Committee publicly declares its support for the EBMUD-Sacramento Joint Water Supply Project.

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GALT 4/30/97

Attendance: 24

- Regarding eminent domain, does EBMUD have the "power" to take land if sellers aren't found? Will they do that?
- As EBMUD is siphoning off water from Central Valley supply for its East Bay customers, what's in it for the Central Valley?
- Can the project also include multi-purpose trails for recreation in the Central Valley, particularly in Camanche? Will EBMUD complete the 30 mile segment of Coast to Crest trail in a timely fashion?
- Are the south Sacramento County alignments only for the Folsom South Canal, or do they also apply to the Joint Project?
- There should be more clarification regarding turnout alignments vs. terminus alignments.
- It makes more sense for the pipeline alignments to go along existing rights of way.
- What is the scope of information distribution to the general public?
- What is the usage in EBMUD's service area?
- What would be the impact on the American River if EBMUD took its full contract?
- How does the Joint Project benefit the River?
- Is the Mokelumne River resource depleted?
- How would pumping into the groundwater basin benefit San Joaquin County?
- Are there currently any agreements with San Joaquin County? Would EBMUD be charged for storage in such an agreement?
- Can the Pardee Reservoir be redesigned to reduce the need for redundancy?
- The amounts of water should be explained in units of acre-feet.
- Is EBMUD open to leaving some water in Sacramento County rather than moving it all to San Joaquin County?
- Why not inject water in Sacramento County, adding to the Sacramento ground water basin?
- Should we move forward on ground water discussions with Sacramento County? And would the City of Sacramento support that idea? Denny Lewis of the Sacramento Farm Bureau will ask the City of Galt, Clay Water District, and Omochumne Hartnell to seek that official support from the City of Sacramento
- Difference in numbers used (150 vs. 112 a/f) should be clarified.

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LODI 4/30/97

Attendance: 26

- ESJPWA submitted a written statement.
- Is there a possible use of underground storage in San Joaquin County?
- There is more favorable sentiment for projects that include cooperation with ESJ. There is confidence that progress will be made in that direction.
- Underground storage idea/concept is questionable and there was objection to an underground storage project. Rather, the suggestion was made that EBMUD buy an island for storage or use sea water.
- Projects are reminiscent of Owens Valley.
- Will the impact on the Delta be included in EIR/EIS?
- This is a chance to build multi-purpose recreational trails.
- Be sure to consider trails in the EIR/EIS.
- How will personal property be affected which is within 300 yards from the RR track alignment?
- There are concerns regarding the feasibility of the CCT alignment and eminent domain.
- The road along the RR alignment is not a good location for a pipe because there is a lot of heavy traffic (as in weight) from nearby packing plants. And, there are too many RR crossings to deal with.
- Directing the pipeline toward Camanche is ideal.
- Are there power lines in the way of any of the alignments?
- Will alignments go through property or along property lines?
- How does EBMUD acquire land? Are they going to negotiate with owners?
- What is eminent domain?
- When EBMUD distributes the excess water in wet years, how do you plan to shut it off without major impacts in dry years?

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SACRAMENTO May 1, 1997

Attendance: 29

- What about maintenance of the pipeline? Could leaks in the pipeline create sink holes?
- Diversion alternative B is located on a rail spur north of Richards Blvd. That is the preferred alignment of the extension of the Light Rail system. The RR is very narrow and it would be difficult to put the pipeline and LRT together in the spur row.
- What will the cost be and where will the money come from?
- It is difficult to see any realistic benefits for Sacramento.
- Putting a pipeline across the city will be a major inconvenience and very costly. Is it worth it to Sacramento?
- Save the American River Association is active in the Water Forum and is pleased with progress made with EBMUD. SARA favors joint partnership with conditions, because there is the potential that all parties may be served well. SARA is still seeking assurances. Although the Joint Project is not a done deal yet, it looks promising. Hopeful that EBMUD will grant assurances.
- Ranchers do not want existing Folsom South canal to be abandoned. What's to say that in 20 or 30 years, we won't realize that the canal is better than the pipeline? If the canal is taken off line now, we'll never have the option of using it again. Ranchers have bought water from the canal in the past and may want to do so again.
- Water Forum should consider the ranchers, but they haven't yet. They are concerned mostly with the environmental groups and water districts.
- EBMUD seems to benefit the most in any of these ideas.
- Are there existing contracts on the canal? What paid users are there other than EBMUD on the Folsom South Canal?
- By losing EBMUD and SMUD from the canal, would there be a chance that the canal would disappear forever?
- If EBMUD distributes excess water in wet years; what will the effects be to downstream users in the dry years?
- EBMUD needs to clarify use of excess water for irrigation. Is that to generate money for EBMUD?
- What are the assurances from environmental groups that they will not object at a later date?
- Will the ecology of the Sacramento River be damaged?
- What are the effects of leakage to the City of Sacramento?
- How will fish be protected? Will fish screens be used?
- What about the silt in the river and keeping it out of the pumps? How will that be accomplished?

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- Who is the decision maker on EIR/EIS?
- What is the cost and where will it come from?
- Potential benefits are a good thing, but the idea of a pipeline through city sounds horrendous, costly, lengthy and disruptive.

Summary of Comments made in letters received by EBMUD through June 16, 1997

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